

60. It is satisfactory to be able to record that there is almost unanimous testimony to the general good-will of the villagers in assisting to extinguish fires.

61. The following is a statement showing the expenditure on burning fire lines and paying rewards to villagers, &c. :—

No.	Division.	Expenditure.		Remarks.
		1892-93.	1893-94.	
		Rs.	Rs.	
1	East Thána ...	1,576	1,520	
2	West Thána ...	2,029	2,520	
3	Surat ...	186	380	
4	Panch Maháls	69	
	Total ...	3,791	4,489	

(b) (3).—*Regulation of Grazing and Protection from Cattle.*

62. In paragraph 97 of last year's report a mistake was made inasmuch as the introduction of the grazing rules in the Panch Maháls Division was said to be in contemplation whereas they had actually been introduced. With this exception that paragraph might stand in the present report.

63. Dr. Pollen, Collector of the Panch Maháls, writes doubtfully both of the necessity and the actuality of the closure against grazing in his district (*vide* para. 121). This failure was attributed in last year's report (para. 100) to the inefficiency of the establishment, and I think to this may be added want of the organization of the forests. Both these adverse factors, it is to be hoped, will be removed in the near future.

64. The following statement gives the number of animals impounded for trespassing in the open and closed forests during the year :—

No.	Division.	From open Forests.		From closed Forests.		Total.	
		1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.	1892-93.	1893-94.
1	East Thána ...	421	230	1,260	2,086	1,681	2,316
2	West Thána ...	67	161	1,598	1,280	1,665	1,441
3	Surat ...	314	1,070	927	1,869	1,241	2,939
4	Panch Maháls ...	1,464	661	226	1,980	1,690	2,641
	Total ...	2,266	2,122	4,011	7,215	6,277	9,337

There is an increase in the total of 50 per cent., chiefly in Surat and Panch Maháls, but in actual numbers the increase is not large, and at any rate in Surat, is declared by the Collector to be "not excessive." Dr. Pollen writes severely about the increase in his district; but with all due deference to his recorded opinion I would submit that a total of 2,641 animals impounded in a district with a forest area of nearly 150,000 acres cannot be called excessive. The now almost universally accepted opinion that the admission of cattle is detrimental to forest growth does not, however, seem to be accepted by Dr. Pollen.

Fencing.

65. No new fences were erected in the East Thána Division but the old ones were kept in repair.

66. In the West Thána Division the work left unfinished last year was completed and very little new work carried out. This latter was in the Bassein Range where altogether during the year 35,003 running feet of fencing was completed at a cost of Rs. 710.

67. No fencing work of any kind was done in the Surāt Division, but in the Panch Mahāls 60 acres were enclosed with wire, to form a plantation, at a cost of Rs. 449.

Civil Suits.

68 The appeal made to the High Court by the *Isáfaldār* of Amgaon in the Vāda Range of the East Thāna Division against the decision of the District Court in the suit referred to in para. 111 of last year's report was not heard before the close of the year.

69. An original suit against the Forest Department was filed in the District Court of Thāna by one Jan Mahamed Allana of Bombay for the recovery of damages amounting to Rs. 1,750 on account of the exclusion of 11½ acres from the area of the coupe for 1890-91 at Kanher in the Bassein Range after its purchase by him. The suit was, however, compromised by payment of the claim under Government Resolution No. 8211, dated 10th November 1893.

Criminal Cases.

70. A forest guard, Vazirkhān Chāndkhān, in the Kalyān Range, East Thāna Division, was prosecuted for connivance in a theft of timber and was sentenced to two months' rigorous imprisonment, and the sentence was confirmed on appeal.

71. Another forest guard, Nārāyan Balwant Khānolkar, in the West Thāna Division, was prosecuted for an almost exactly similar offence, with the result that the convicting Magistrate sentenced him to pay a fine of Rs. 50, which sentence was upheld by the Appellate Court.

72. Both these men were of course dismissed and have since been gazetted as ineligible for any Government service.

IMPROVEMENT OF FOREST GROWTH.

(1).—*Natural Reproduction.*

73. Natural reproduction was reported by all the Divisional Forest Officers as fair during the year. In some places fires and grazing are said to have retarded it to some extent. No special cases are recorded from any division.

(2).—*Artificial Reproduction.*

74. In the two Thāna divisions artificial reproduction by broad-casting of seed and transplantation of seedlings was confined to the exploited coupes. The results were fairly satisfactory. These cultural operations are partly done by forest guards and partly by paid labour.

75. The regular plantations in the West Thāna Division at Deheri, Dāhānu and Persik, which are maintained for experimental and teaching purposes, showed fair results. They contain casuarina, sandal, date, Inga dulcis and other species.

76. The fodder reserves which are situated close to the B. B. & C. I. Railway line in the Māhim Range and which have hitherto been shown as plantations, because it was the custom for many years past to make plantations therein, were during the year finally classed as fodder reserves. These reserves from their situation will always return a far higher sustained revenue and, a more urgently required produce yield under grass than they would under timber. Further attempts to produce forest growth in them is therefore deemed undesirable. The existing timber growth, which in places is considerable, will, however, be maintained.

77. In East Thāna the small regular plantations undertaken in several places are said to have met with a modified degree of success.

78. In Surat, in addition to the regular transplanting operations in exploited coupes, the plantation near Tithal, referred to in paragraph 130 of last year's report, was continued and towards the close of the year was largely extended, but the results of this operation belong to next year's report.